

Appl. No. 09/657,956
Filed 9/8/2000

Atty Docket JP920000170US1

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 1. (currently amended) A method of accrediting participants to an event, said method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 _____ a) collecting information from each of said participants;
4 _____ b) recording the information in an accreditation system;
5 _____ c) producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants;
6 _____ d) issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants; and
7 _____ e) upon arrival of such a each participant at, or proximate an event venue, validating said
8 non-valid pass for the participant, thereby accrediting said participant, wherein step e) includes
9 the steps of:
10 _____ updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system; and
11 _____ securing the pass in a security pouch.

1 2. (currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 1, comprising the
2 further step of:
3 _____ upon arrival of such a each participant, verifying information of said participant before
4 said non-valid pass is validated.

1 3. (currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 1, comprising the
2 further steps of:
3 _____ for foreign participants and before arrival of participants, sending a bulk visa request to
4 an Immigration Authority; and
5 _____ receiving a visa status from said ~~immigration department~~ Immigration Authority,
6 allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa.

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1 4. (currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 1, comprising the
2 further steps of:

3 _____ ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and
4 _____ ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes.

1 5. (currently amended) Apparatus for accrediting participants to an event, said apparatus
2 comprising:

3 _____ means for collecting information from each of said participants;

4 _____ means for recording the information in an accreditation system;

5 _____ producing means for producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants;

6 _____ issuing means for issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants; and

7 _____ upon a participant's arrival at, or proximate an event venue, validating means for

8 validating said non-valid pass for such a participant upon the participant's arrival at, or

9 proximate an event venue, thereby accrediting said participant, wherein the validating means

10 includes:

11 _____ means for updating the accreditation status of the participant in the

12 accreditation system; and

13 _____ means for securing the pass in a security pouch.

1 6. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus according to~~ The apparatus of claim 5, further
2 comprising:

3 _____ for foreign participants and before arrival of said participants, means for sending a bulk
4 visa request to an Immigration Authority; and

5 _____ means for receiving a visa status from said Immigration Authority, allowing said
6 validated pass to serve as a visa.

1 7. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus according to~~ The apparatus of claim 5, further
2 comprising:

3 _____ means for ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and

4 _____ means for ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes.

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1 8. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus according to~~ The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said
2 ~~system-apparatus~~ is a distributed system comprising interconnected servers and workstations.

1 9. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants
2 form a first portion of a valid pass and the participants are associated with organisations, and
3 wherein the method comprises the steps of:
4 producing non-valid passes by the accreditation system for said organisations, wherein
5 such a non-valid pass for an organisation forms a second portion of a valid pass; and
6 issuing the non-valid passes to said organisations, so that the organisations may distribute
7 the second portions to selected ones of the participants associated with the respective
8 organisations, wherein the validating in step e) uses both the first and second portions of the
9 pass.

1 10. (new) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants
2 form a first portion of a valid pass and the participants are associated with organisations;
3 wherein the producing means is further for producing non-valid passes by the
4 accreditation system for said organisations, wherein such a non-valid pass for an organisation
5 forms a second portion of a valid pass; and
6 wherein the issuing means is further for issuing the non-valid passes to said
7 organisations, so that the organisations may distribute the second portions to selected ones of the
8 participants associated with the respective organisations, wherein the validating means uses both
9 the first and second portions of the pass.

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